

SENATE BILL 276

By Overbey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-201, relative to state university board composition.

WHEREAS, the state university boards vote on initiatives and policies that directly impact the respective university and student body; and

WHEREAS, one of the board members is designated to a student representative who is appointed in order to present a student perspective on how the board's actions will affect the university and its students; and

WHEREAS, while the student representative is allowed to discuss the board's initiatives, the student representative may not vote on these issues; and

WHEREAS, allowing this student representative to vote will ensure adequate representation of collectively over 75,000 students at the 6 four-year state universities that will begin operating under their respective boards, rather than the Tennessee Board of Regents, beginning in the spring of 2017; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-201(f)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following language:

(1)

(A) Each state university board shall consist of ten (10) voting members.

One (1) voting member shall be a student representative. At least six (6) non-student members shall be residents of this state.

(B) Eight (8) of the non-student state university board members shall be appointed by the governor.

(C) At least three (3) of the members appointed by the governor shall be alumni of the institution for which they are serving. "Alumni" means a person who is a graduate of the institution.

(D) In making appointments, the governor shall strive to ensure that the state university boards are composed of members who are diverse in gender, race, perspective, and experience.

(E) One (1) non-student board member shall be a faculty member of the institution who shall be selected in a manner determined by the faculty senate of the respective institution.

(F) One (1) voting member shall be a student representative who shall be selected by the following process:

(i) The student government association at each state university shall use an application process to select and recommend to the university's board of trustees three (3) student candidates for the student representative appointment;

(ii) The three (3) nominees selected by the student government association shall be forwarded to the university president who, once each candidate is approved by the president, will present the approved recommendations to the board for final action;

(iii) With the exception of the first student member selected by the process described by this subdivision (f)(1)(F), the names of the student member nominees shall be submitted to the president and board of trustees one (1) year prior to the term applied for;

(iv) The board of trustees shall select and appoint one (1) student member-elect, who shall attend board meetings as a nonvoting observer with the current voting student member; and

(v) The student member-elect shall take the student member's seat for the next year's term.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-201(f)(2)(C), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following language:

(C) The student member shall serve a term of one (1) year.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-201(f)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following language:

(3) All members of a state university board, including the student member-elect appointed pursuant to subdivision (f)(1)(F)(iv), are subject to confirmation by the senate and the house of representatives, but appointments of the state university board are effective until adversely acted upon by joint resolution of the senate and the house of representatives.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-8-201(f)(8)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following language:

(A) A state university board shall elect from its non-student members a chair and other officers the board deems appropriate. The chair shall serve a term of two (2) years.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to boards formed on or after that date.